

chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that: "We must stop partisan politics at the water's edge."

Senator Vandenberg, a Republican, who worked across the aisle with Democrat President Truman in the early days of the Cold War was right.

This resolution is not safeguarding our Constitution, but attacking our Constitution by attempting to divest a duly elected President of his Commander in Chief powers, and in the process, emboldening our enemies.

In fact, President Trump has demonstrated enormous restraint in his targeted action against Soleimani making this vote entirely unnecessary. There was no invasion of Iran, but a strike against a terrorist in a country we had the legal authority to operate in under the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard many of my colleagues doubt the applicability of that AUMF, so for those colleagues who are unconvinced that that is a sufficient authority, consider the fact that even in the absence of explicit congressional authorization for the Soleimani strike, here is a helpful reminder: Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution provides that: The President shall be Commander in Chief. And it is true that the Constitution gives Congress the sole power to declare war and the sole power of the purse to either fund or defund military action, but dating back to the Prize cases in 1863, the Supreme Court has long held that the President may act without Congress to defend the Nation.

In recent years, the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel has opined that the Constitution authorizes the President as Commander in Chief to order military action without congressional permission if the President determines that the action would be anticipatory self-defense or otherwise serves the interest of the United States, at least where the nature, scope, and duration of the anticipated hostilities are limited.

And that was what was the case here.

Specifically, the OLC has said the President's inherent constitutional authority as Commander in Chief, his broad foreign policy powers, and his duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, empower him to deplore the armed forces abroad, without a declaration of war by Congress or other congressional authorization.

The courts have generally declined to review the exercise of such unilateral executive power.

The War Powers Resolution does not limit the President's power to act without Congress. At most, it imposes a reporting and consultation requirement that this President has complied with.

Furthermore, the War Powers Resolution applies only to the deployment of significant bodies of military personnel and would not apply to a drone strike.

Finally, according to OLC, "... if our Armed Forces otherwise lawfully

stationed in a foreign country were fired upon and defended themselves, we doubt that such engagement in hostilities would be covered by the consultation and reporting provisions of the War Powers Resolution."

Of course, that is precisely the scenario here involving the President's decisive strike against Soleimani in response to an attack on our embassy.

Thank goodness we have a Commander in Chief who will not allow another Benghazi on his watch. Don't forget, the Framers of the Constitution specifically rejected a proposal that Congress be empowered to "make war," and implied power for the President to "repel sudden attacks."

This was in recognition of the slow pace and inefficiency of legislative proceedings under the Articles of Confederation. As Members of Congress, we have a special duty to jealously guard legislative prerogatives, including the power to declare war, and to provide a check on the executive branch for overreach. But we also must have the humility to acknowledge that Congress lacks the power to divest the President of his Commander in Chief powers under Article II.

RECOGNIZING ASSISTANT CHIEF LAURA QUATTLEBAUM FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, I rise to recognize California Highway Patrol Assistant Division Chief Laura Quattlebaum for her years with the California Highway Patrol and congratulate her on her retirement.

Assistant Chief Quattlebaum is a shining example of the selflessness and courage our Nation's law enforcement possesses. She is truly an amazing woman, full of passion, character, and integrity. I am humbled to have worked alongside her in our community, and I am honored to call her my friend.

For more than 30 years, Assistant Chief Quattlebaum has served as a dedicated public officer for my constituents, as well as countless other Californians. After graduating from the CHP academy she went on to act as public information officer for the city of Indio.

From this critical position to her current role as California Highway Patrol assistant chief, she has answered the call to defend our public safety many times. Throughout her career, Assistant Chief Quattlebaum has been recognized on numerous occasions for her outstanding work. As lieutenant in the Indio area, she received the Commissioner's Commendation for Leadership and Cultural Awareness and Racial Profile training.

Six years later, Assemblyman Brian Nestande awarded her the 2013 Women

of Distinction award, and in 2014, Assemblyman Manuel Perez presented her with the Woman of the Year award in recognition of her service to the people of California.

Assistant Chief Quattlebaum is known to her colleagues as a hard-working and selfless leader. Her commitment to bettering the lives of others is reflected in her tireless advocacy for those she served alongside and for peace officers throughout the country.

I have witnessed this commitment firsthand on multiple occasions, notably, when we worked together to more than double our Nation's funding for mental health services for our local law enforcement agencies just last year.

Assistant Chief Quattlebaum's career in public service is a true testament to her devotion to community, country, and public safety. Her unwavering dedication to the people of California is admirable.

On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I thank Assistant Chief Quattlebaum for her years of service and thank all of our law enforcement agents who work tirelessly to uphold the safety of our communities.

I congratulate Assistant Chief Quattlebaum on her retirement. We must carry the spirit of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day with us every day by showing our gratitude for our public safety officers year-round.

CONFLICT WITH IRAN

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of Americans in my district and across the country who are anxious that the events of this past week are sending us down a path to war with Iran.

Over the past week, I have been thinking most about our servicemembers and their families, the people whose lives will be immediately and irreversibly affected by the decision to go to war: sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, siblings, our neighbors and our friends, who will put at risk their lives; families worried about their loved ones put in harm's way; servicemembers who have seen multiple deployments and are now faced with the prospect of being sent overseas yet again.

Our veterans and their families have dealt with the human toll of war for nearly 20 years. It is time for a new approach. Americans don't want another endless war in the Middle East. After 19 years of conflict, America doesn't need another war. We do not want reckless, high-risk provocations of war that make Americans less safe for years to come.

That is why I urge President Trump to deescalate the situation and pursue a diplomatic path forward. In the meantime, I hope everyone will join me in continuing to pray for the servicemembers overseas defending our Nation and for a strategic, peaceful solution to avoid another costly war in the Middle East.

STANDING IN FIRM SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT TRUMP ON HIS ACTIONS AGAINST TERRORISTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand in firm support of President Trump's leadership in his decisive actions against evil terrorists.

America and the world are safer without Qasem Soleimani. Not only is America safer, it is more prosperous than ever before and now energy independent.

The Iranian regime would be wise to not further test this President's mettle and the overwhelming capabilities of the greatest fighting force the world has ever known: our U.S. military.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GENERAL PAUL KELLEY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of General P.X. Kelley. General Kelley was the embodiment of the Marine Corps. His distinguished record inspired me, the marines with whom I served, and will continue to inspire marines for generations to come.

In Vietnam, General Kelley earned the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with Valor, and two Bronze Stars with Valor.

As commandant, he led the Corps during the dark days following the 1983 Iran-backed bombing of the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut. General Kelley's leadership inspired every marine to hold true to the values of the Corps. I am terribly saddened by the passing of General Kelley, but I will be forever grateful of serving under his command.

Semper fi.

CONGRATULATING GATORADE INDIANA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHARLIE SPEGAL

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate an exemplary student-athlete, Charlie Spegal.

Charlie was recently named the Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year. He has had an outstanding football career, holding the all-time State career record in rushing yards, rushing touchdowns, and career touchdowns.

Finishing with 10,867 career rushing yards and 175 touchdowns, he did this while maintaining above a 3.5 GPA. Charlie has been a role model for student athletes everywhere.

I congratulate Charlie on his wonderful career throughout high school and wish him the best of luck in college.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF AMERICAN HERO CHARLES "RED" WHITTINGTON

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker I rise today to remember the life of American Hero Charles "Red" Whittington.

Red served in France during World War II as a member of the 377th Infantry Regiment and the 95th Infantry Division.

His regiment was given the nickname "Iron Men of Metz" for their fierce liberation in defense of the town of Metz from German counterattacks.

Whittington was the recipient of a Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the European Theater of Operations Campaign Medal with two battle stars, a Good Conduct medal and the Victory Medal.

I give my deepest condolences to the Whittington family and hope they find comfort in knowing that Charles "Red" Whittington was a true American hero.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH DEARBORN HIGH SCHOOL ON REIMPLEMENTING FFA AG PROGRAM

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate South Dearborn High School for reimplementing their FFA Ag program. FFA educates students on agricultural success, as well as providing hands-on career training experience.

After a 30-year absence, students and future farmers at South Dearborn will again be able to gain the knowledge and experience they need to succeed in the agriculture industry.

Congratulations to South Dearborn FFA, and I look forward to seeing your chapter grow.

PRESIDENT NEEDS TO MAKE THE CASE FOR MILITARY ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, young men and women enlisting in our military for the first time will enter recruitment offices across our country this year.

On their IDs will be birth dates that reflect the fact that they are signing up to fight in wars that started before they were born.

Nineteen years. That is how long we have been in Afghanistan. Seventeen years. That is how long we have been in Iraq. Not to mention the American weapons, the American dollars, the American boots, the American lives that have been sent to Yemen, Syria, Somalia, and many, many other corners of our globe.

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We are a generation that has spent the better part of its life at war in a country in the Middle East, perpetual wars fought under the cover of two permission slips that this body gave the executive branch nearly 20 years ago.

In 2001, Congress authorized our offensive against al-Qaida and the Taliban in the wake of 9/11 in what became the largest armed conflict in American history. In 2002, Congress authorized the invasion of Iraq, and it became the greatest foreign policy mistake of a generation.

And our response has been silence, silence from this collective body; silence as we have sent hundreds of thousands of American men and women to Afghanistan and tens of thousands more to Iraq; silence as three administrations, Democratic and Republican, have used these two authorizations to

expand, to evolve, to justify, and to prolong our presence in a volatile and violent region; and silence as our role has become less clear and our mission less certain.

What we have lost in this silence is hard to quantify—the lives that could have been spared, the families we could have protected, the money we could have used to do good, and the credibility we could have saved if we had summoned the collective courage to tear up those permission slips.

The vote today on the War Powers Resolution to restrict the current administration's actions against Iran is an important one. It is a necessary response to a reckless President without a plan. But it is not enough because, yesterday, this administration told us that the legal authority to launch a strike targeting Iran 6 days ago was granted based on the authority that this body allowed to invade Iraq 18 years ago, using a deceased dictator to justify a potential war against an entirely different adversary, making a mockery of matters of war and peace.

So now, facing the threat of war with a different yet brutal regime, this body must finally act to cut off any avenue that this President or any other President has to enter our people into a war that we do not want because this isn't just about the actions of a current administration. It is about the precedent that we set from this day forward.

We must pass a War Powers Resolution today. We must repeal the 2001 and 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force. We must compel the executive branch to come to Congress and make the case that any military action that is required to protect American lives is in our best interests and justified.

And we in Congress must be prepared to take some tough votes because that is our job. It is the very least that we owe our men and women in uniform putting their lives on the line so the rest of us might sleep safe and free.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL FITZPATRICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor my friend and former colleague, Michael Fitzpatrick. Former Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick passed away on January 6 after a 12-year battle with cancer.

He served as chairman of the House Committee on Financial Services' Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing. Over a 2-year period, the task force investigated the financial mechanisms used to fund terrorist activities.

Mike was a leading voice in Congress on medical device safety, pressing the FDA after dangerous medical devices remained in use after causing serious injury and death. He was an Eagle